From: Jon Babcock
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 11:47am
Subject: One clean solution: Open MS file formats

If Microsoft were required to open and keep open the proprietary
file formats of their most-used office productivity software
(MWWord .doc, PowerPoint .pp, etc.) it would be *much* easier
for other products, both free and commercial, to be made to
interoperate with these nearly ubiquitous Microsoft products.

I think this one requirement, for open file format
specifications, would do more than another other single thing to
loosen Microsoft's monopoly on office productivity applications.
It would be inexpensive to monitor because many software
devlopment companies would be constantly on the lookout for
discrepencies between the open, published file format
specifications and the ones actually used in Microsoft's latest
office productivity applications.

THanks for listening.

Jon

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